



**Montana Fish,  
Wildlife & Parks**

Region One  
490 North Meridian Rd.  
Kalispell, MT 59901  
(406) 752-5501  
FAX: 406-257-0349  
Ref:DV237-01  
November 20, 2001

TO: Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Building, Helena, 59620-1704  
Dept. of Environmental Quality, Planning, Prevention & Assistance, PO Box 200901, Helena, 59620-0901  
Dept. of Environmental Quality, Permitting Compliance, PO Box 200901, Helena, 59620-0901  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Director's Office – Larry Peterman  
Legal Unit

Parks Division – Allan Kuser  
Design/Construction – Dick Mayer

Montana Historical Society, SHPO, 225 North Roberts, Veteran's Memorial Building, Helena, 59620-1201

Montana State Library, 1515 East Sixth Ave., Helena, 59620-1800

Jim Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, PO Box 1184, Helena, 59624

George Ochenski, PO Box 689, Helena, 59624

Wayne Hirst, Montana State Parks Foundation, PO Box 728, Libby, 59923

Montana State Parks Association, PO Box 699, Billings, 59103

Joe Gutkoski, President, Montana River Action Network, 304 N 18<sup>th</sup> Ave., Bozeman, 59715

Rep. Verdell Jackson, 555 Wagner Lane, Kalispell, 59901-8079

Rep. Dee Brown, PO Box 444, Hungry Horse, 59919-0444

Rep. Darrel Adams, 155 Eastland Crossroad, Columbia Falls, 59912-9300

Sen. Bob DePratu, PO Box 1217, Whitefish, 59937-1217

Sen. Jerry O'Neil, PO Box 2058, Kalispell, 59903-2058

Flathead County Commissioners, 800 S Main Street, Kalispell, 59901

Flathead County Library, 247 First Avenue E, Kalispell, 59901

Rick Hanners, Hungry Horse News, PO Box 189, Columbia Falls, 59912

Flathead Wildlife, PO Box 4, Kalispell, 59901

Bob Raney, 212 S. 6<sup>th</sup>, Livingston, 59047

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The enclosed environmental assessment (EA) has been prepared for the site protection projects at Pressentine and Kokanee Bend fishing access sites (T29N, R21W, S11 and T30N, R20W, S19 & 30), which will place barrier rock, fencing, and gates in appropriate locations to prevent motorized access off the designated roads at these sites.

Questions and comments will be accepted until December 20, 2001. Please direct your questions or comments to Marty Watkins, Regional Parks Manager, FWP, 490 N. Meridian Road, Kalispell, MT 59901, or e-mail to mawatkins@state.mt.us. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Daniel P. Vincent  
Regional Supervisor

DV/nli  
Enclosure

# Pressentine & Kokanee Bend Site Protection Project

## MEPA/NEPA/HB495 CHECKLIST

### PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. **Type of Proposed State Action:** Site protection projects at Pressentine and Kokanee Bend fishing access sites. The project will place barrier rock, fencing, and gates in appropriate locations to prevent motorized access off the designated roads at these sites.

2. **Agency Authority for the Proposed Action:** Montana Annotated Code 23-1-101.

3. **Name of Project:** Site Protection Projects at Pressentine and Kokanee Bend Fishing Access Sites.

4. **Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor (if other than the agency):**

5. **If Applicable:**

Estimated Construction/Commencement Date: 5/1/02

Estimated Completion Date: 5/1/03

Current Status of Project Design (% complete): 50%

6. **Location Affected by Proposed Action (county, range, and township):**

Pressentine Fishing Access Site: Section 11, T29N, R21W, Flathead County, 10.7 acres

Kokanee Bend Fishing Access Site: Sections 19 and 30, T30N, R20W, Flathead County, 185.52 acres

8. **Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:**

	<u>Acres</u>		<u>Acres</u>
(a) Developed:		(d) Floodplain .....	
residential.....	_____		
industrial.....	_____	(e) Productive:	
		irrigated cropland .....	_____
(b) Open Space/Woodlands/Recreation.	196	dry cropland .....	_____
		forestry .....	_____
Wetlands/Riparian Areas.....	_____	rangeland .....	_____
		other .....	_____

9. **Map/site plan:** Attach an original 8½" x 11" or larger section of the most recent USGS 7.5' series topographic map showing the location and boundaries of the area that would be affected by the proposed action. A different map scale may be substituted if more appropriate or if required by agency rule. If available, a site plan should also be attached. Please see Appendix A

**10. Narrative Summary of the Proposed Action or Project, Including the Benefits and Purpose of the Proposed Action:**

Currently both these sites are receiving significant illegal OHV use. While the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks recognizes OHV use as legitimate and appropriate in some locations, both of these sites are located along riparian areas, where OHV use is inappropriate. Because of the OHV use, significant damage is occurring to vegetation and stream banks, resulting in erosion, violation of Best Management Practices (BMPs), and loss of wildlife habitat. The purpose of these projects is to use barrier rocks, fencing, and gates to prevent motorized vehicles from leaving designated and established roadways. If funding allows, revegetation and reclamation of user-made roads will be part of this project. The public will still be able to access the rivers to launch boats and to fish, and will be able to access the remainder of the properties on foot or by horseback.

**11. Listing of Any Other Local, State, or Federal Agency that Has Overlapping or Additional Jurisdiction:**

**(a) Permits:**

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>	<u>Date Filed/#</u>
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**(b) Funding:**

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
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Pressentine: Fish, Wildlife and Parks	\$31,000
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Kokanee Bend: Fish, Wildlife and Parks	\$33,000
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If one project is able to be completed below cost, the remaining funding may be shifted to the other project.

**(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:**

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Type of Responsibility</u>
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**12. List of Agencies Consulted During Preparation of the EA:**



## PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

### 1. Evaluation of the impacts of the Proposed Action including secondary and cumulative impacts on the Physical and Human Environment.

#### 1. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. <u>LAND RESOURCES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated?	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
► a. Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?		X				
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil, which would reduce productivity or fertility?		X				
► c. Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		X				
d. Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?		X				
f. Other (list)						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

1a, 1b, 1d: This project will have an impact on all the above by improving existing conditions. Soil stability will be enhanced; erosion and compaction, and the related moisture loss, will be lessened; and siltation to the adjacent rivers will be lessened by a reduction in erosion caused by off-road vehicle use.

Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.



2. <u>AIR</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT <sup>o</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>o</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>o</sup>	None	Minor <sup>o</sup>	Potentially Significant		
► a. Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (also see 13 (c))		X				2a
b. Creation of objectionable odors?		X				
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?		X				
d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?		X				
e. ♦For P-R/D-J projects, will the project result in any discharge which will conflict with federal or state air quality regs? (Also see 2a)						
f. Other						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Air Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

**2a: Some increased air pollution is possible during the construction phase of the projects while the barriers and fencing are being put in place. In the long term, air pollution will be lessened as the erosion channels are revegetated.**

Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM) Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

3. <u>WATER</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT <sup>a</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>a</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>a</sup>	None	Minor <sup>a</sup>	Potentially Significant		
a. Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?		X				3a
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?		X				3b
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of floodwater or other flows?		X				
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?		X				
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?		X				
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?		X				
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?		X				
i. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?		X				
j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?		X				
k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?		X				
l. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project affect a designated floodplain? (Also see 3c)						
m. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project result in any discharge that will affect federal or state water quality regulations? (Also see 3a)						
n. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Water Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

**3a and b. Water quality will be enhanced and surface water runoff will be decreased as compaction of soils is lessened with the removal of motorized vehicles from the areas.**

Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

4. <u>VEGETATION</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT <sup>a</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>a</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>a</sup>	None	Minor <sup>a</sup>	Potentially Significant		
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?		x				4a
b. Alteration of a plant community?		x				
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		x				
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?		x				
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?			x			4e
f. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project affect wetlands, or prime and unique farmland?		x				
g. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

**4a: Both sites will become more productive for grasses, shrubs, and other riparian plant communities as soil damage is reduced. If project funds allow, revegetation work will be done.**

**4e: The spread of noxious weeds will be lessened as vehicles are required to stay on established roads and thus do not introduce new weed sources to the property.**

Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.



► 5. <u>FISH/WILDLIFE</u>  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT <sup>a</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>a</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>a</sup>	None	Minor <sup>a</sup>	Potentially Significant		
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		X				5a
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?		X				5b
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?		X				
d. Introduction of new species into an area?		X				
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		X				
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?		X				5g
h. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project be performed in any area in which T&E species are present, and will the project affect any T&E species or their habitat? (Also see 5f)						
i. ♦For P-R/D-J, will the project introduce or export any species not presently or historically occurring in the receiving location? (Also see 5d)						
j. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

**5a and b: Riparian wildlife habitat will be improved through vegetative rehabilitation.**

**5g: Wildlife abundance may increase due to lessened stress.**

Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

- ♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

Pressentine & Kokanee Bend

Public review draft EA

November 19, 2001

## B. HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

6. <u>NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT <sup>a</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>a</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>a</sup>	None	Minor <sup>a</sup>	Potentially Significant		
a. Increases in existing noise levels?		X				
b. Exposure of people to severe or nuisance noise levels?		X				
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?		X				
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?		X				
e. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

7. <u>LAND USE</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT <sup>a</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>a</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>a</sup>	None	Minor <sup>a</sup>	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?		X				
b. Conflicted with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?		X				
c. Conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?			X		N	7c
d. Adverse effects on or relocation of residences?		X				
e. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

7c: Some valley residents are accustomed to using these sites for mud bogging, ATV use, and other OHV recreation. While this is a legitimate and appropriate use in some areas, it is not appropriate at this location. By this action, this activity will be blocked to protect the riparian area from further damage and to allow revegetation. The sites have always had regulation prohibiting off road vehicle use, but the regulation has been largely ignored. This project will make enforcement and compliance with existing regulation easier. Displacement of this illegal use will occur, and FWP will support establishing an OHV area in another appropriate location. Hiking, hunting, fishing, and other intended uses of these sites will be enhanced.

Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

8. <u>RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT <sup>a</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>a</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>a</sup>	None	Minor <sup>a</sup>	Potentially Significant		
a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?		X				
b. Affect an existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan or create a need for a new plan?		X				
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?		X				
d. ♦ For P-R/D-J, will any chemical toxicants be used? (Also see 8a)						
e. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

9. <u>COMMUNITY IMPACT</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT <sup>a</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>a</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>a</sup>	None	Minor <sup>a</sup>	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?		X				
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?		X				
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?		X				
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?		X				
e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?		X				
f. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.



10. <u>PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Will the proposed action have an effect upon or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If any, specify:			X		N	10a
b. Will the proposed action have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues?			X			
c. Will the proposed action result in a need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?			X			
d. Will the proposed action result in increased used of any energy source?			X			
▶ e. Define projected revenue sources						
▶ f. Define projected maintenance costs.						
g. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

**10a: Increased enforcement from the warden staff will be required in the short term as people adapt to the enforcement of the existing regulation.**

Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

11. <u>AESTHETICS/RECREATION</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT <sup>a</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>a</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>a</sup>	None	Minor <sup>a</sup>	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?		X				
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?			X		N	11b
c. Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report)		X				
d. ♦For P-R/D-J, will any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas be impacted? (Also see 11a, 11c)						
e. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

**11b: The aesthetic character of the area will be improved and the user-made trails and ditches revegetated.**

12. <u>CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT <sup>a</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>a</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>a</sup>	None	Minor <sup>a</sup>	Potentially Significant		
a. Destruction or alteration of any site, structure, or object of prehistoric historic or paleontological importance?		X				
b. Physical change that would affect unique cultural values?		X				
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		X				
d. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project affect historic or cultural resources? Attach SHPO letter of clearance. (Also see 12.a)						
e. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

- ♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

## SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

13. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:	IMPACT <sup>a</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>a</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>a</sup>	None	Minor <sup>a</sup>	Potentially Significant		
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources which create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)		X				
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?		X				
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?		X				
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?		X				
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?		X				
f. ♦For P-R/D-J, is the project expected to have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy? (Also see 13e)						
g. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, list any federal or state permits required.						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Water Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.



## **PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (CONTINUED)**

- 1. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action, whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider, and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:**

Two alternatives are available for these projects:

Alternative 1: The preferred alternative is to use fencing, barrier rock and gates to close these sites to off-road vehicle traffic. These sites, under ARM 12.8.204, are signed to prohibit motorized off-road travel, but some users have continued to use the sites as mud bogging and off-road trail areas. While OHV use is legitimate and appropriate recreation, the riparian nature of these areas makes them inappropriate for OHV use. FWP will continue to support OHV use in areas where that use is legitimate, and will support the development of alternative OHV areas. This project will protect wildlife habitat, enhance vegetation, decrease soil compaction and runoff, reduce noxious weed infestation, and allow site control at these two fishing access sites.

Alternative 2: Do not do the project. Enforcement would continue to be difficult at the sites, as wardens attempt to enforce the current regulations. Soil compaction and erosion would continue, as would the spread of noxious weeds. The public would continue to remove the currently inadequate barriers and continue illegal motorized use.

- 2. Evaluation and listing of mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency:**

## **PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT**

1a, 1b, 1d: This project will have an impact on all the above, by improving existing conditions. Soil stability will be enhanced; erosion and compaction, and the related moisture loss, will be lessened; and siltation to the adjacent rivers will be lessened by a reduction in erosion caused by off-road vehicle use.

2a: Some increased air pollution is possible during the construction phase of the projects while the barriers and fencing are being put in place. In the long term, air pollution will be lessened as the erosion channels are revegetated.

3a and b: Water quality will be enhanced and surface water runoff will be decreased as compaction of soils is lessened with the removal of motorized vehicles from the areas.

4a: Both sites will become more productive for grasses, shrubs, and other riparian plant communities as soil damage is reduced. If project funds allow, revegetation work will be done.

4e: The spread of noxious weeds will be lessened as vehicles are required to stay on established roads and thus do not introduce new weed sources to the property.

5a and b: Riparian wildlife habitat will be improved through vegetative rehabilitation.

5g: Wildlife abundance may increase due to lessened stress.

7c: Some valley residents are accustomed to using these sites for mud bogging, ATV use, and other OHV recreation. While this is a legitimate and appropriate use in some areas, it is not appropriate at this location. By this action, this activity will be blocked to protect the riparian area from further damage and to allow revegetation. The sites have always had regulation prohibiting off road vehicle use, but the regulation has been largely ignored. This project will make enforcement and compliance with existing regulation easier. Displacement of this illegal use will occur, and FWP will support establishing an OHV area in another appropriate location. Hiking, hunting, fishing, and other intended uses of these sites will be enhanced.

10a: Increased enforcement from the warden staff will be required in the short term as people adapt to the enforcement of the existing regulation.

11b: The aesthetic character of the area will be improved and the user-made trails and ditches revegetate.

#### PART IV. EA CONCLUSION SECTION

1. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? YES / NO If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action:

An EIS is not required, as cumulative impacts are judged to be nonexistent or an actual improvement of the sites.

2. Describe the level of public involvement for this project, if any; and, given the complexity and the seriousness of the environmental issues associated with the proposed action, is the level of public involvement appropriate under the circumstances?

A public meeting is not planned at this time. The proposed action will be posted at the sites with a contact address and phone number if the public wants further information. If there is adequate interest in the project, a public meeting will be scheduled. Notices of the impending improvements will be sent out in a news release, published in the legal notices of the local newspapers, and placed on the FWP web site advising the availability of copies of the EA for public review.

3. Duration of comment period, if any: Thirty days, from November 20 through December 20, 2001.
4. Name, title, address and phone number of the person(s) responsible for preparing the EA:

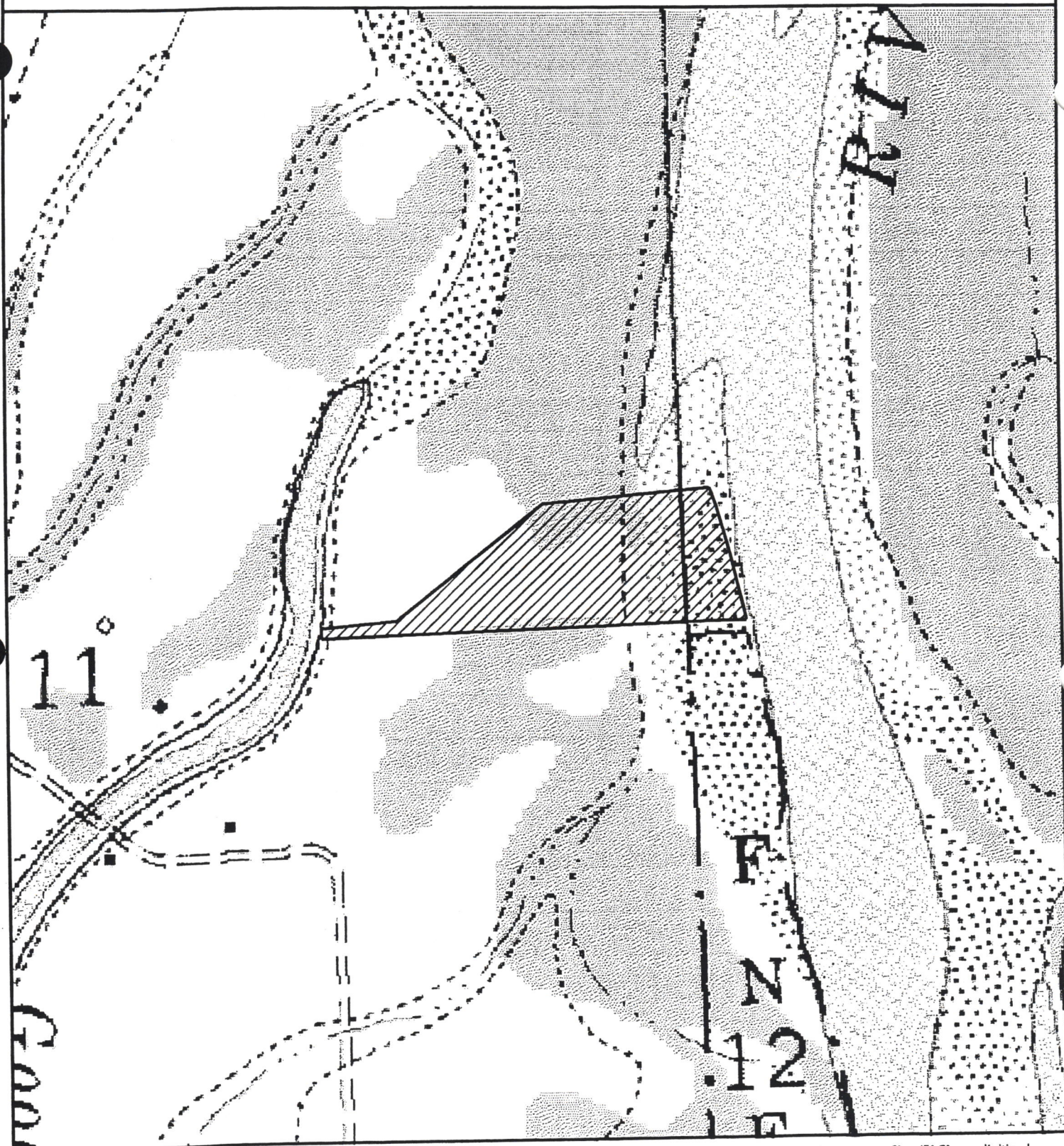
Marty Watkins, Regional Parks Manager  
Fish, Wildlife and Parks  
490 N. Meridian  
Kalispell, MT 59901  
(406) 751-4573 or e-mail to mawatkins@state.mt.us

**PRESSENTINE & KOKANEE BEND  
SITE PROTECTION PROJECTS  
Public Review Draft EA**

**APPENDIX A**




# Pressentine FAS



Lands File Number: 1340  
T29N/R21W



10.693 acres  
  
Fee Simple  
FAS Parcel

0 acres  
  
Leased  
FAS Parcel

0 500 1000

Scale in feet  
Scale 1:6000

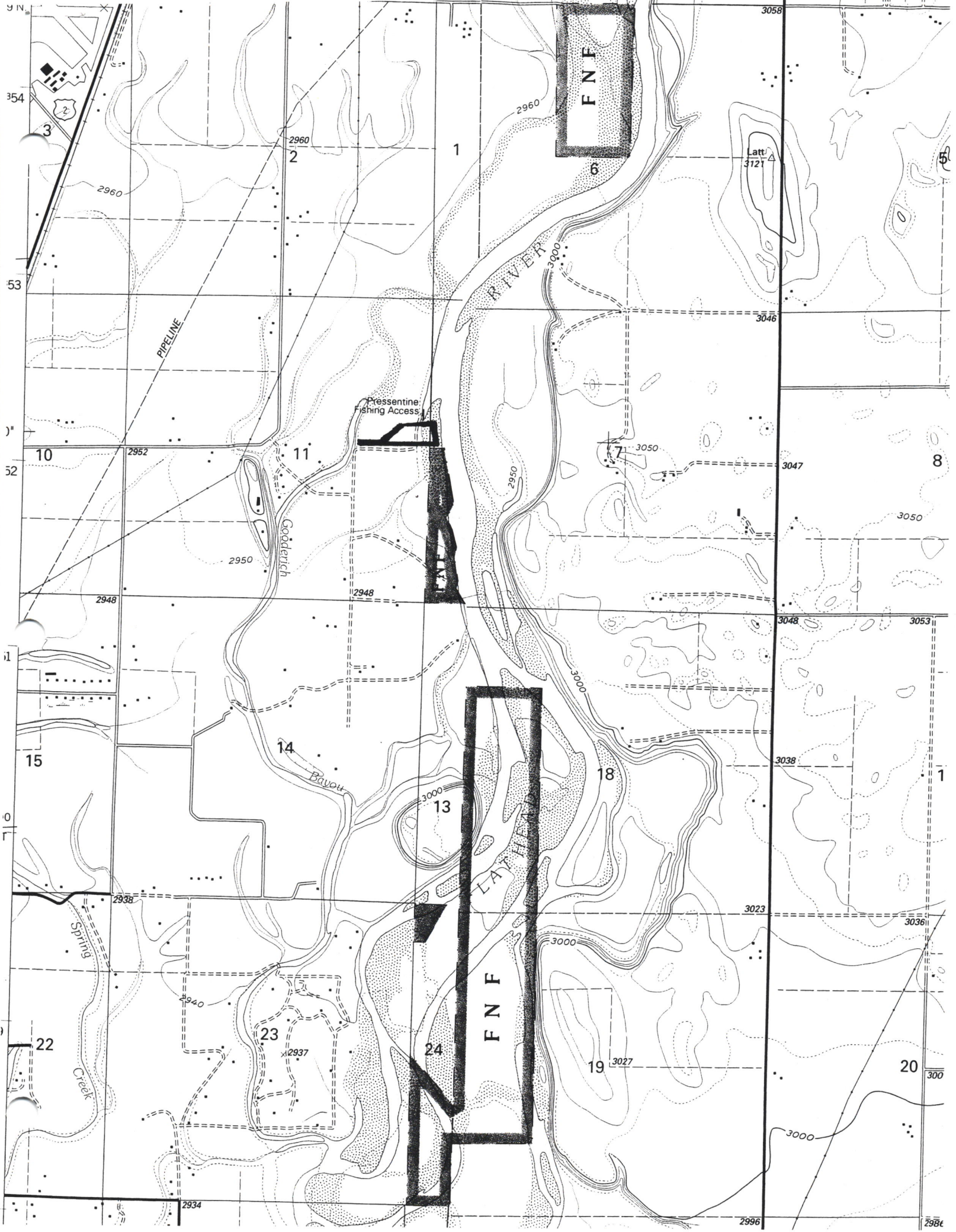
Fishing Access Sites (FAS) are digitized and maintained by the Information Services Unit of the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks. FAS's were digitized at 1:24,000 using the COGO module of Arc/Info. The background image is a USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle digital raster graphic.



**Montana Fish,  
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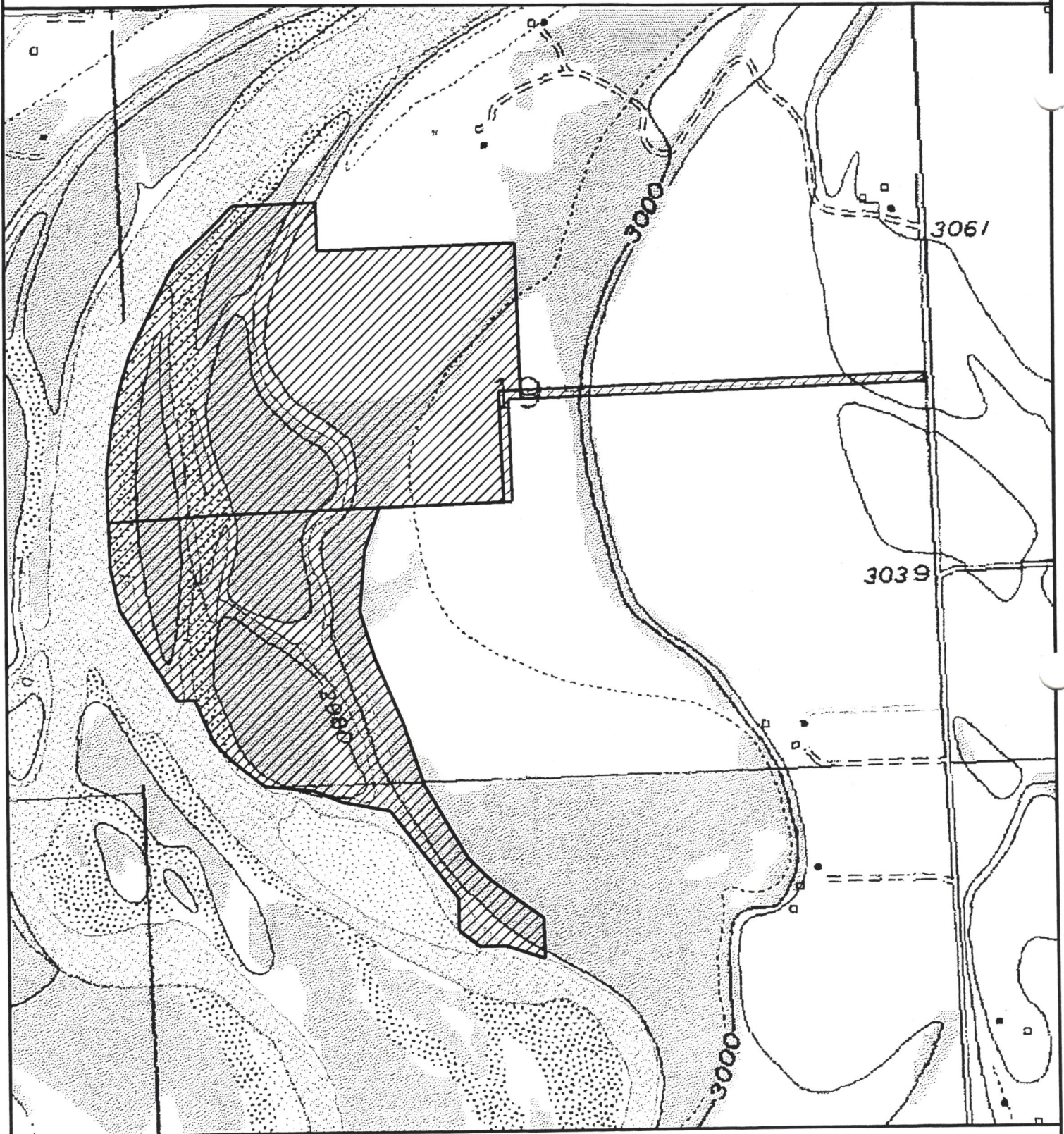
Map produced by NRIS,  
request# 00FWP6 - September 22, 1999



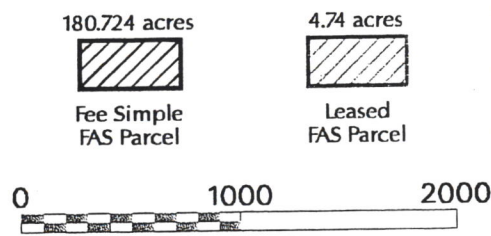
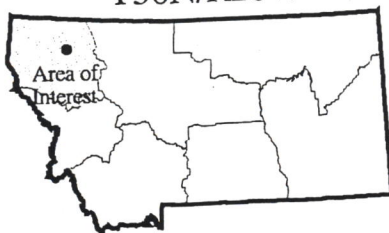




# Kokanee Bend FAS




Lands File Number: 1337  
T30N/R20W



Scale in feet  
Scale 1:11000

180.724 acres  
  
Fee Simple  
FAS Parcel

4.74 acres  
  
Leased  
FAS Parcel

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